

WHAT'S HAPPENING WEDNESDAY

Kansas Immunization Program

August 19, 2020

VFC Consultant On-Call

The Consultant On-Call can be reached Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at 785-296-5592.



CHIEF CHAT

In This Issue

Influenza season is almost here and flu shots are already available at certain locations. So when will the VFC flu vaccine be shipped to providers? Such a simple question has a fairly complex answer. I will try to provide an answer that is understandable.

In late winter, the Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) submits a flu order for the state based on the doses requested from VFC providers during the flu pre-book. As vaccine becomes available for the upcoming flu season, usually August or September, states begin receiving flu allocations from the Federal contract. The flu pre-book order that the KIP submitted is never received as one allocation; it comes in many smaller allocations.

In order for KIP to begin shipping the publicly-funded flu vaccine, we must have received about 25% of our total allocation from the flu pre-book order. To begin shipping before we reach this number would mean an uneven distribution of vaccine among Kansas VFC providers. So to answer the question above, publicly-funded flu vaccine will likely start shipping to providers mid-September. All pre-book flu requests will be sent out as quickly as possible.

If publicly-funded flu vaccine is not received when needed, providers may borrow private-stock flu vaccine to vaccinate publicly-insured children and replace it when publicly-funded vaccine is received. A [Vaccine Borrowing Report](#) must be completed for all vaccines borrowed to ensure appropriate repayment of vaccine. At the end of each month Vaccine Borrowing Reports should be faxed to 785-559-4226 or emailed to kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov.

Some good news...we have ordered an additional 175,000 doses of flu vaccine to be used for adults regardless of insurance status. This is special vaccine offered in response to COVID-19. It is important to increase adult flu vaccination rates so that we can prevent co-morbidity of flu and COVID-19. More will be shared about this vaccine, including how to request doses, in the coming weeks. This vaccine will not be available until we are further into the flu season, probably November. Please watch for more information.

I hope this article helps to clarify the process for influenza orders made through the KIP. Again, it is a complicated process, but the KIP works hard to ensure vaccine gets to providers as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for all your hard work in getting vaccines where they need to be!

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INJECTION OF EDUCATION

July and August back-to-school vaccination time quickly leads into flu clinic season. With an increased number of patients, staff may feel hurried to prepare and administer vaccines. Of course, hurrying can lead to mistakes. Yes, we are mid-pandemic, and yes, school vaccination and flu vaccination times can be extremely busy and stressful. That is why it is so important to check, double check, and triple check the vaccine and the administration sites.

Take a few minutes to assess your skills and your staff's skills if you have not recently done so. Staff may have been on furlough or may have been tasked with COVID-19 activities and a vaccine administration refresher is a good way to change gears and focus on vaccination clinics.

Use the Immunization Action Coalition's [Skills Checklist for Vaccine Administration](#) to make sure staff are ready. Review [anatomical sites](#) for children and adults and how to determine [needle sizes](#). As flu vaccine begins to arrive or as well child visits and sports physicals increase, review common mistakes such as: selecting the wrong vaccine, pediatric verse adult formulations, [DTaP verses Tdap](#) or [Hepatitis A verses Hepatitis B](#). If you stock different flu vaccines, give a short in-service on the different presentations and the age ranges or indications of each type. Make sure vaccine storage units are laid out in a way that staff can quickly choose the correct vaccine and consider [labeling](#) bins or shelves for faster identification. Each of these things can prevent vaccine administration errors.

This time of year is always busy and adding COVID-19 creates the perfect storm for vaccine administration errors. Staff are busy and may feel hurried or stressed, patients can become impatient with waiting, and this year, more than ever, keeping infection control and prevention in focus by preventing the spread of COVID-19. The truth is, you can't afford NOT to take a moment to review these things. No one wants to notify a patient of a preventable error!

You are so important because you protect people from vaccine preventable diseases! Thank you for all you are doing!

New Employee Spotlight



We would like to take a moment to introduce our newest team member, Jaycie Collins. Jaycie is our new KSWebIZ Technician who will provide technical support via phone and email for KSWebIZ users. Her primary duties include training new users and assistance with monthly recons. Jaycie will be working alongside our other KSWebIZ Technician to assist with any and all technical issues.

Tuberculosis Tidbit

COVID-19 has consumed our time and our lives for the past several months, and it continues to be the main focus of public health across the globe. Because so many resources (time, money, supplies, and staff) have been diverted to the COVID-19 effort, other infectious disease responses, including TB response, have been virtually halted. As a result, the rate of TB disease and TB related deaths are expected to rise. This is due to the disruption of healthcare services, as well as related health seeking behaviors, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. New models show TB related deaths increasing by as much as 36% over the next five years ([www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(20\)30288-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30288-6/fulltext)). Stop TB USA has also published a press release to encourage “strengthening public health programs to fight the co-pandemics.”

(<https://nebula.wsimg.com/d8c5bc11c3c8deb213d76a27aaaa250dAccessKeyId=AE08E205505E80E0B715&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>).

We know inequities exist in the prevalence of both TB and COVID-19. Low-income individuals are at increased risk for both. Travel limitations, limited health care access, and difficulties in social distancing due to culture or essential work outside the home, all contribute to those inequities. We, as providers and public health, must remain diligent in ensuring TB capacity (including funding) is not decreased further so we can continue to provide timely and appropriate TB surveillance, diagnoses, and care to at risk individuals and communities across Kansas.

KSWebIZ Upgrade

KSWebIZ will be undergoing an upgrade to version 20.6 of the application. The system will be down from **5 p.m. – 10 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2020** while the upgrade is being performed. Any HL7 messages received during this time will be placed in a queue until the upgrade is complete and then released.

School Vaccine Requirements

As students prepare to go back to school, now is the time to make sure that they are up-to-date on their school immunization requirements. As the new required vaccines are phased in over multiple school years: two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine are required for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade, one dose of MenACWY is required for students entering 7th and 8th grade, and two doses of MenACWY are required for students entering 11th and 12th grade. For students entering 11th or 12th grade with no previous dose of MenACWY, they are required to have one dose at school entry.

Grade Level	Vaccine	Number of Doses
Kindergarten	DTaP	5 doses *4 doses appropriate if 4 th given on/after 4 th birthday
Kindergarten	Polio	4 doses *3 doses appropriate if 3 rd given on/after 4 th birthday
Kindergarten	HepA	2 doses
Kindergarten	HepB	3 doses
Kindergarten	MMR	2 doses
Kindergarten	Varicella	2 doses *or history of disease documented by a licensed physician
7 th Grade	Tdap	1 dose
7 th Grade	MenACWY	1 dose
11 th Grade	MenACWY	2 doses *or 1 dose if no dose previously administered

According to KSA 72-6262, students may be exempted from vaccine requirements if a written statement from a licensed physician states that the such inoculations would seriously endanger the health of the child. These medical exemptions must be provided annually. Alternatively, a written statement signed by one parent or guardian of the child stating that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose teaching are opposed to such inoculations serves as a religious exemption. Students without an exemption who have not completed all required vaccination series are non-compliant.

Upcoming Webinar

Title: Flattening the Kansas Cancer Curve Through HPV Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: August 25, 2020 (Tuesday)

Time: Noon (1 p.m. CT)

Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

Guest Speaker: Helene Felman, MD FAAP; Pediatrician,
Visiting Immunization Expert,
American Academy of Pediatrics

***Continuing medical education credits provided by
American Academy of Pediatrics**

